

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday June 24, 2015

Location: Dover Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
303 Transportation Circle, Dover, DE 19901

Members present: BJ Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)
Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)
Marianne Cinaglia (DeEASI)
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)
Stan Mills (League of Local Governments)
Brian Nixon (DE Chamber of Commerce)
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)
Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters)
Adam Webster (Restaurant Industry)

Members absent: Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry) George Danneman (Soda Bev Ind.)
Kelly Davis (Educator, DelTech-Owens Campus)
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Bev Ind.) Brenna Goggin (Delaware Nature Soc.)
Julie Miro Wenger (Del. Food Industry Council)
Bob Ziegler (Waste Hauler Industry)

Non-members present: Marshall Budin (DNREC) Kimberly Jarrell (DNREC)
Nancy Marker (DNREC) Bill Miller (DNREC)
Jim Short (DNREC)

Call to Order, Introductions

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:45PM

Public Comments - None

Approval of April 22, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The April 2015 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Universal Recycling Grants-Cycle 6: Funding Recommendations to DNREC

Marshall Budin stated that contract work scopes for eleven (11) recycling grants have been drafted in accord with the caveats approved by Council. The contract start date is targeted for August 1, 2015. Discussion focused on publicizing successful grant programs to encourage other prospective applicants to apply. RPAC Members suggested that DNREC consider surveying grant applicants to assess the effectiveness of their funded efforts. Department staff stated that grant recipients are required to submit two (2) interim status reports and a final report documenting implementation status of grant project activities, progress towards achieving the grant goals, with a narrative in the final report identifying problems, how they were addressed, lessons learned and any suggestions to the Department to improve the program. The Chair iterated that publicizing school districts that have successfully implemented their recycling programs as model recyclers may motivate other districts to implement recycling programs or expand/enhance their recycling efforts. A recommendation was made to the Department to email grant recipient progress and final reports to Council Members and agreed to by Department staff. Closing discussion centered on the monies remaining in the Delaware Recycling Fund and how those funds could potentially be used (and supplemented by other State or Federal funding sources) to attract product and packaging manufacturers that use recycled feedstock in their manufacturing process. These recycling converters and processors would increase markets for, and value of, recovered recyclable materials from Delaware.

Pending Recycling Legislation

The Chair briefed Council Members on House Bill 202 (HB 202) which expands on the existing at store single use plastic bag recycling program. Key points summarized below:

- Primary sponsor: Rep Hudson; Additional sponsors: Senators McDowell & Cloutier, and Reps. Brady, D. Short and Lynn
- Introduced 06/19/2015
- Scheduled to become effective December 2, 2016
- Requires stores (at least 7,000 sq.ft. retail space or 3 or more stores or retail locations that have at least 3,000 sq.ft. retail sales space) to charge their customers \$0.05 for each single use plastic or single use paper bag provided
- Fee is retained by the store to offset the costs associated with complying with provisions of the law and costs associated with providing reusable bags to customers and educational costs related to encouraging the use of reusable bags

Discussion followed that the chances weren't high the bill would make it out of the House Natural Resources Committee this session. It was noted that the retail sector may not support the bill since it doesn't provide for at least ½ of the fee to go to the Department to support recycling and waste reduction programs. It was noted that Washington D.C.'s \$0.05 fee generates around two million dollars annually and that revenue hasn't decreased significantly since implementation which raises the question whether a nickel per bag charge is sufficient to motivate behavior away from disposable to reusable bags.

Marj Crofts briefed Council Members on two resolutions that have been introduced. The first, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28 (SCR28) entitled, **RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERTING ORGANIC WASTE OUT OF LANDFILLS AND RECYCLING THEM INTO A USEABLE ENERGY** creates a task force to discuss and evaluate options to recycle organic waste within Delaware free of odors. Senator McBride is the Primary Sponsor. The task force is to be Chaired by the Chair of the DSWA; consists of 17 (seventeen) members; will meet monthly; and, present findings to the Delaware House and Senate Natural Resources Committees and Governor by May 1, 2016. The other is House Concurrent Resolution 40 (HCR40) entitled, **CREATING THE DELAWARE ANTI-DUMPING AND ANTI-LITTERING TASK FORCE**. The task force is charged with defining the scope of the problem, developing actionable strategies to curtail littering and illegal dumping and identifying how new policies could be implemented and financed. A final report is to be issued no later than March 15, 2016.

During discussion it was noted that the RPAC was not included in the organizations comprising either task force. Also, it was stated that given the state of technology it isn't possible to treat organics (aerobically or anaerobically) without generating some odors. After polling Members, the Chair said he will send a letter to Senate and House Sponsors of SCR28 offering the Council's assistance in the evaluation of organics treatment options. With respect to HB202, any response is being deferred pending the input of other Council Members. Stan Mills suggested that the Bylaws be reviewed to ascertain if Council is permitted to take a position on pending legislation.

M. Crofts indicated that the JFC is recommending funding for the Poly Drummond Yard Waste Collection Site be cut in half. Options include opening only Friday – Sunday and winter closing. Also, the Recycling Fund is not being looked at this legislative session; however, in this climate there is no guarantee that it won't be on the table next legislative session. Funding for Recycling Office administrative expenses continues to be a concern.

Education & Outreach – Recognition Program for Businesses & Communities

Early discussion focused on the implications that the closure of the Wilmington Organics Recycling Center (WORC) and the decision by owners of Blue Hen Organics (BHO) to cease composting will have on achieving the January 1, 2015 50% MSW diversion goal. Jim Short roughly estimated a 1-2%

reduction to MSW diversion with WORC accounting for the majority. The Chair iterated that beyond the immediate impact to diversion the long term effects concern him because of the lost opportunity to divert material streams – food and yard waste - that constitute such a large portion of recoverable materials at the margin of recovery in the overall waste stream.

Mike Parkowski stated that although the national recycling rate is trending down to 31%, Delaware remains strong at 42% with indication that the loss of food waste composting outlets will at least be partially offset in the to be reported 2014 recycling rate with the increase of single stream throughput at the Re-Community MRF of 10-12 thousand tons in 2014 and trending up in 2015. The assessment of MSW Recycling and Total Solid Waste Recycling for CY2015 is expected to be complete by mid-August. It was noted that the goal for total solid waste recycling is 72% by January 1, 2015.

Discussion directly related to education and outreach ideas and strategies focused on identifying and publicizing successful grant recipient projects in a comprehensive way highlighting what worked, what didn't work, and what could have been done differently from the lessons learned. Suggestions included:

- In addition to educating citizens on what is recyclable, place more emphasis on addressing out-thrown materials that either aren't recyclable or where other preferred recycling outlets are available (e.g. single use plastic bags) to reduce residuals at the Re-Community MRF
- Describe successful grant funded projects by sector in the Recycling Toolkits
- Issue an Awards Certificate for notable waste reduction accomplishments
- Reach out to the Delaware Manufacturing Association (DMA) to inform them of the RPAC's mission and solicit their input on expanding outreach to the manufacturing sector

Closing discussion, the Chair recognized that these are all good ideas which suggest the need for a reconstituted Outreach and Education Sub-Committee to brainstorm and develop a concrete E& O plan. Further, that someone with PR experience should be considered. Bill Miller agreed to provide the list of Sub-committee members to the Chair.

Recycling Market Update

Markets for recycled commodities continue to be weak with further decreases possible in the face of lower oil prices. M. Parkowski iterated that the correlation of crude oil prices historically associated with recovered plastics prices continues to apply to fiber and metals as well. There is speculation that aluminum prices could be as low as \$400.00/ton later this year which is unprecedented, even during the market collapse in 2008, resulting in even greater pressure to increase single stream recycling processing fees. Re-Community purchases futures to hedge the market and moderate price increases; however, hauling costs from Sussex County could be \$60.00 per ton when the contracts expire.

Old/New Business

Wilmington PAYT Contract – Jim Short said that a draft contract is ready to be sent to the City for their review. He will continue to update as more information is available.

Council Member Reappointments/Appointments– The Chair iterated that one vacancy for a Member representing a community based or public interest group remains and is holding up submission of reappointments because of the Governor's Office request that one packet be submitted.

Additional Public Comments - None

Future Meetings

Wednesday, September 23, 2015, 1:30 – 3:30PM, (Sussex County, Location TBD)

Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 1:30 – 3:30PM, (New Castle County, Location TBD)

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30PM